

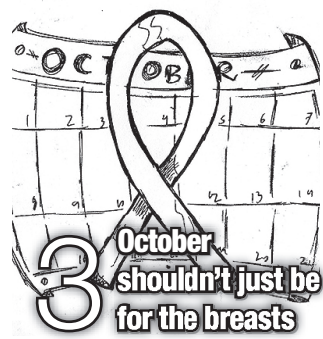


friday, october 11, 2013

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thecollegian

INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



VOL. 119 NO. 34

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Tomorrow:
High: 71 °F
Low: 45 °F



Sunday:
High: 72 °F
Low: 54 °F

02

Reason for the season
The Fourum reveals
why some are looking
forward to Halloween

06

Today is the day
National Coming Out
Day was celebrated on
the K-State campus



But wait, there's more
kstatecollegian.com
features even more
News, Sports and Edge

Bill Nye the Science Guy set for December

Courtney Burke
staff writer

Bill Nye the Science Guy will not be able to speak at McCain Auditorium today, due to injuries from "Dancing with the Stars." Nye's lecture on sustainability has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 3, at Bramlage Coliseum.

While dancing his paso doble routine on Monday, Sept. 23, Nye stepped on his pant leg and tripped, causing him to tear the ligaments in his left leg. Because of his injury, Nye and his partner, Tyne Stecklein, were unsure as to whether or not he would be able to continue the competition. The uncertainty didn't last long, however, as the couple was sent home on Sept. 30 after being eliminated. Now that Nye is off the show and recovering, he has agreed to come to K-State on Dec. 3, instead of canceling his appearance completely.

"I think we were initially disappointed that we had to reschedule," said Georgia Campbell, senior in family studies and human services and UPC forums community co-chair. "Now we are really excited about having the opportunity for more people to experience his lecture on sustainability."

According to Campbell, the original date for Nye's appearance at McCain sold out fairly quickly. Currently having Bramlage Coliseum available for this event gives more people the opportunity to go.

NYE | pg. 5

SGA focuses on allocations

Bridget Beran
staff writer

Student Governing Association focused on allocations for student organizations last night. The College Allocations Committee brought multiple resolutions to the floor.

The association held debate over increasing funding from \$700 to \$800 for the Agricultural Education Club's trip to the National FFA convention in Louisville, Kent. Members of the club were present to speak on the benefits the trip offers attendees, as well as the general student body. Senator Ross Jensby, senior in mass communications, spoke about his concerns of bias towards group funding.

Funding was also approved for the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, ACT, the Bilingual Education Student Organization, BESO, and Community Cultural Harmony as suggested by the College Allocations Committee.

Kappa Delta Pi honorary, American Institute of Chemical Engineers and Foundation for Individual Rights and Education, FIRE, also had requested funding for activities and trips. SGA chose to send requests back to the College Allocations Committee for further corrections and development.

In committee reports, speaker pro tempore Kaitlin Long, senior in entrepreneurship, gave an update about In Touch, a program that strives to educate the student body on the workings of SGA and how SGA can help and better serve them.

"We're reaching out to

SGA | pg. 5

Pride of Wildcat Land marches as family

Adam Suderman
staff writer

Inside the doors of McCain Auditorium lies a K-State family that has stood the test of time – since 1887 to be exact. It has experienced its ups and downs, created its successes with hours upon hours of work and they're in no mood to fail. This family is the K-State Marching Band, better known as the Pride of the Wildcat Land.

The evolution of the K-State Marching Band is no ordinary tale. Much similar to the K-State Football team they're supporting on nine Saturdays this fall, they needed a direction and an identity when it all began.

Dr. Frank Tracz, professor of music and director of bands, took on this challenge in fall 1993 knowing it'd be an uphill climb. Tracz said that at the beginning of his K-State career, the band was in need of some care and attention.

"There was nothing here," Tracz said. "Nobody wanted to come here. There was no recruiting system and there was nothing to attract students. It was a ripe place. The vineyard was ready and the fields were ready to be



Hannah Hunsinger | Collegian

An impassioned clarinet player shows his Wildcat pride at the pregame pep band before the K-State vs. UMass football game on Saturday, Sept. 14 in Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

MARCHING | pg. 5

Transgender students share unique perspectives

Jakki Thompson
edge editor

Editor's note: This is part one of a three part series sharing the stories of transitioning transgender students and their interactions with the K-State community.

As students walk along the pathways on campus, most are oblivious to those around them. Often, people will look down at the ground to avert eye contact



with those walking past.

But what if, for a brief moment, you did catch a glimpse of someone passing by. Perhaps you aren't sure if this person identifies as male or female. Perhaps this person has a masculine build, yet possesses a feminine appearance.

The person you notice might be a member of K-State's growing transgender community.

According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, transgender people are those, "whose gender identity, expression or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth." Transgender students present themselves as the gender that is opposite of how they were biologically born. Before these students transitioned, they lived "cisgender" lives. Cisgender is when the way you present yourself on the outside reflects the sex you were given at birth.

"[When I began transitioning] I was presenting in what I would have considered a masculine fashion, but it was very flamboyant and kinda glam rock-y," Adam O'Brien, senior in fine arts, said. "Because of my body structure and my voice, people often saw me as a woman,

Terminology for Understanding Gender Identity

Gender: A socially constructed system of classification that ascribes qualities of masculinity and femininity to people.

Sex: A medical term designating a certain combination of gonads, chromosomes, external gender organs, secondary sex characteristics and hormonal balances.

Cisgender: A person who by nature or by choice conforms to gender/sex based expectations of society.

Transgender: Transgender people are those whose psychological self differs from the social expectations for the physical sex they were born with.

Definitions were taken from the University of California - Berkely's Gender Equity Resource Center.

and more than that a lesbian, which I wasn't at all, ever. Wanting to be one identity and people referring to me and addressing me as the complete opposite

Hannah Hunsinger | Collegian

Adam O'Brien, senior in fine arts, shows how he looked before he began his transition into his now male-bodied self. O'Brien has been in transition for four years, including taking testosterone hormone treatments lasting for at least two years.

TRANSGENDER | pg. 6

"Ready Player One" bridges generation gap

Shelbi Markham
staff writer

In their biggest event of the year, K-State First brought Ernest Cline, author of "Ready Player One," to McCain Auditorium last night. K-State First, a university first-year experience program, decides on a book and distributes it during enrollment to incoming freshmen. They put on three to four major events to help bring students together and create bonds within the community. "Ready Player One" was the book of choice this year.

"Our goal is to help students with the transition from high school level learning to college level learning," Gregory Eiselein,

while intertwining tweets from K-State students about his book in his speech. Also, he talked about his own personal experience in becoming an author to entertain the audience. In addition to being a novelist, Cline is a screenwriter and a slam poet. His first movie, "Fanboys," was released in 2009.

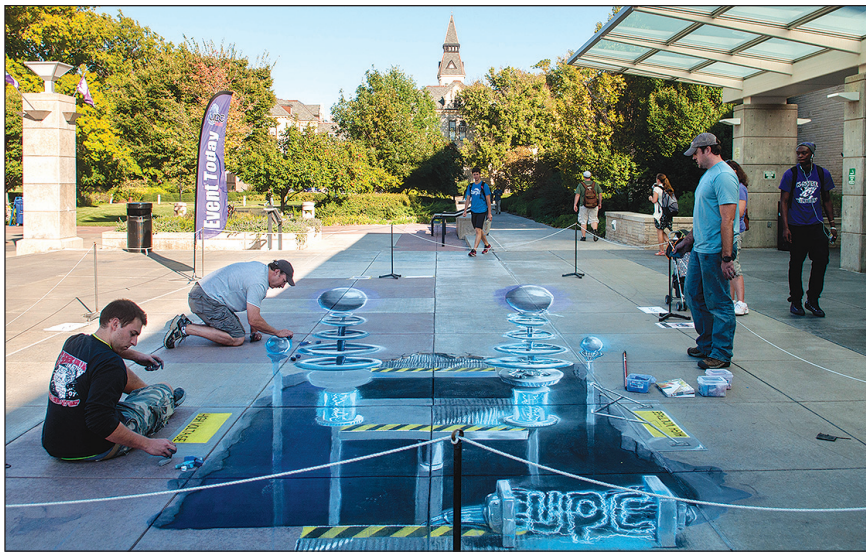
Full coverage
See www.kstatecollegian.com for more on K-State First and "Ready Player One."



Jed Barker | Collegian

Ernest Cline signs his book "Ready Player One" for K-State students and faculty after speaking at McCain Auditorium on Thursday night.

Drawing lines through physics



Hannah Hunsinger | Collegian

3D chalk artist Nate Baranowski (front), his father Gary Baranowski and his brother-in-law Jordan Thompson (right), add details to the chalk mural in Bosco Student Plaza on Wednesday afternoon.

Tailgating foods need prep time too

Jessica Lopez
staff writer

Wildcat faithfuls are familiar to the scene of massive tailgates with dedicated fans, an enthusiastic atmosphere, delicious food and ice cold beverages. It's the moment Wildcat supporters get to enjoy those juicy burgers right off the grill, fresh cut watermelon and scrumptious potato salad, before they head into Bill Snyder Family Stadium to cheer on their beloved team.

Amidst the excitement and family atmosphere, however, lies a potentially fatal risk of foodborne illnesses that are not vis-

ible to the naked eye.

According to Londa Nwadike, assistant professor in food safety and K-State food safety specialist, improper handling of food at tailgates could lead to fatal consequences.

"People have died from not cooking or handling food properly," Nwadike said. "People are not aware of how serious food illnesses can be, because they may use poor safety food practices and never get sick, so they don't think it is a big deal."

The possibility of getting foodborne illnesses is a big risk with today's tailgating

SAFETY | pg. 5



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ACROSS
1 Energy
4 Others (Lat.)
8 Angelic music-maker
12 Hosp. section
13 Mentor
14 Great Lake
15 Excited
17 Object of worship
18 Reddish-brown horse
19 Peak periods
21 Where — at
22 Beer drinker's option
26 Actress Sharon
29 Duke it out
30 Tin Man's need
31 "Portnoy's Complaint" author
32 Pistol
33 Island visited by
34 Alias abbr.

DOWN
1 Peach centers
2 Reverberate
3 Sound of contentment
4 Shoelace tips
5 Temporary calms
6 Anger
7 Naturalist John
8 Robbery
9 Joan of —
10 Carnival city
11 Calligrapher's need
16 March 17
17
18
19
20 Plague
23 Go sight-seeing
24 Taleteller
25 Abounding in hackberry trees
26 Snatch
27 Trickster deity
28 List-ending abbr.
29 Unopened flower
32 Pay your share
33 Reached
35 Jewel
36 Piece of parchment
38 Rental contract
39 Eagle's nest
42 Half a ticket
43 Otherwise
44 Oboe insert
45 Sort
46 Mafia VIP
47 Farmyard female
49 Weeding tool

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 10-11

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10-11

CRYPTOQUIP

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Q Z B N T U X V I R C B Q Z M M K I G M
J Z R M I Z Q , X M V G N U A T Z R
W X W Z M K - A Z F Q Z Z R W F G U R .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE BEST FANCY VASE
TO HAVE BEEN PRODUCED OVER THE PAST
HUNDRED YEARS: THE URN OF THE CENTURY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals E

the FOURUM

785-260-0207

The Fourum is a quirky view of campus life in voices from the K-State community. Positive and humorous comments are selected for publication by the Collegian marketing staff.

Does any guy vote against girls doing slutty costumes for Halloween?

Guys, what's the most creative slutty costume for Halloween? Your input is needed.

Like and vote for your favorite posts at thefourum.net!

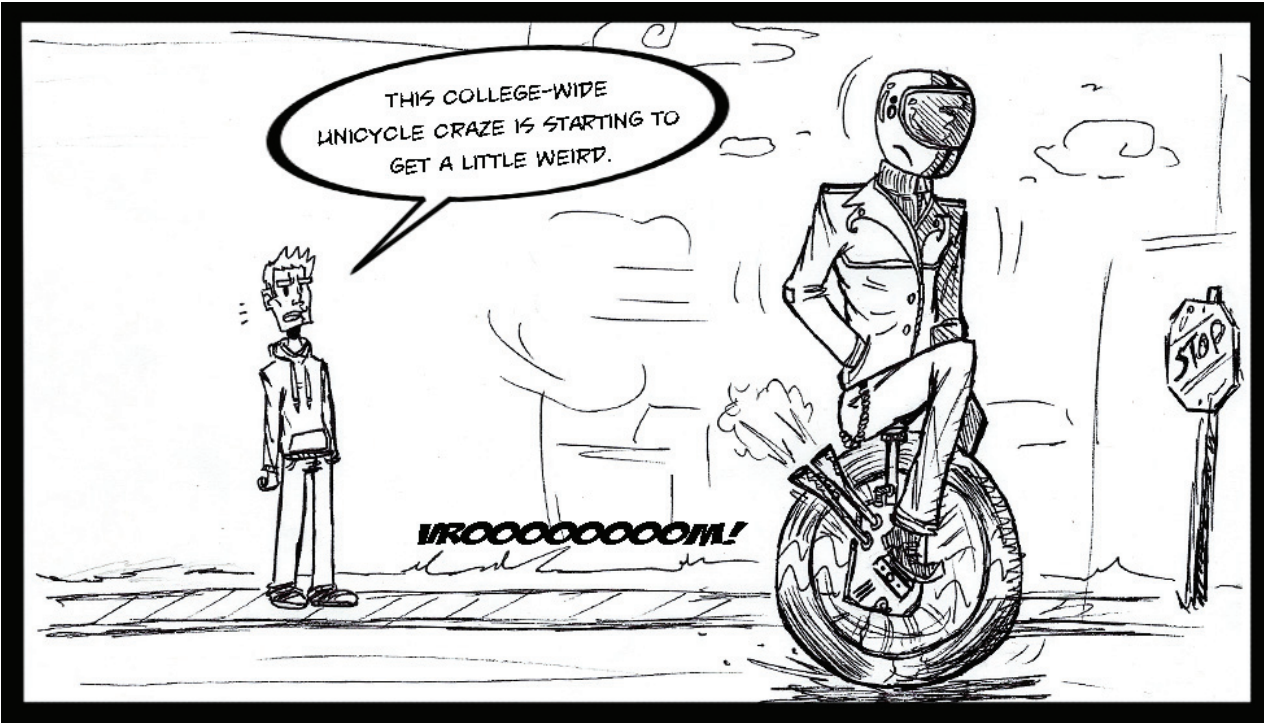
Of course the guy that said "there is plenty of parking" has his own spot. He has never been on campus and seen people waiting half an hour for a spot. Dude's clueless about parking.

People who sit on the end of empty rows in lecture halls ... You're welcome for straddling you to get by.

I see that October 13 is National No Bra Day for breast cancer awareness ... Well ladies, you have my full attention.

Editor's note: To submit your Fourum contribution, call or text 785-260-0207 or email thefourum@kstatecollegian.com. Your e-mail address or phone number is logged but not published.

For the Win | By Parker Wilhelm



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Collegian welcomes your letters. We reserve the right to edit submitted letters for clarity, accuracy, space and relevance. A letter intended for publication should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article that appeared in the Collegian within the last 10 issues. It must include the author's first and last name, year in school and major. If you are a graduate of K-State, the letter should include your year(s) of graduation and must include the city and state where you live. For a letter to be considered, it must include a phone number where you can be contacted. The number will not be published. Letters can be sent to letters@kstatecollegian.com

Letters may be rejected if they contain abusive content, lack timeliness, contain vulgarity, profanity or falsehood, promote personal and commercial announcements, repeat comments of letters printed in other issues or contain attachments.

The Collegian does not publish open letters, third-party letters or letters that have been sent to other publications or people.

CORRECTIONS

There was an error in the Oct. 10 issue.

On page 5, in a cutline, Nicole Casonhua was referred to as a freshman in theatre. Casonhua is a sophomore. The Collegian regrets the error.

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, call managing editor Mike Stanton at 785-532-6556 or email news@kstatecollegian.com.

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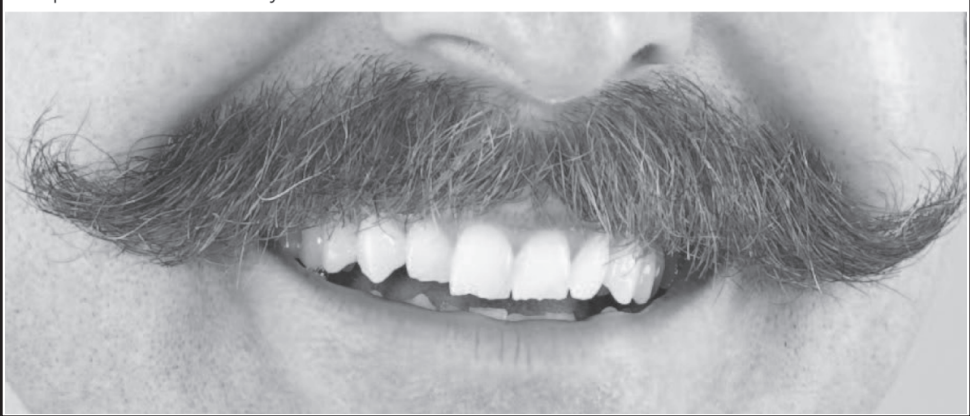
Sunflower Bank Mustache Contest


DATE **Saturday, October 19**
TIME **12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
PLACE **Triangle Park**
PRIZE **Grand prize: \$200 for each category.**
The two categories are:
::Best mustache
::Other - All other facial hair and fake facial hair.
GOAL **To support the Flint Hills Breadbasket and have fun doing it.**
HUH? **Voting will be done by the public with cans of food that they bring - with all canned goods going to the Breadbasket. Rally your troops to come support you and a worthy organization!**

Stop by Sunflower Bank inside of Dillon's at 130 Sarber Lane to get registered. Questions? 785-539-4111

Z96.3 will be broadcasting live. Join us for food and fun!

No purchase necessary. See branch location for official rules. Member FDIC





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Christianity teaches us how to deal with tragedies



Every time I've turned on the news this week, I've heard a tragic story – from the naval base shooting in Washington, D.C., to the terrorist attack on a mall in Kenya to a shooting in Old Town in Wichita, Kan. It's very difficult to look out at the world and stomach its tragedies. It's even more difficult to know how to handle them ourselves or what our reaction should be.

Our initial response, because of our human nature, is to get angry. We demand answers. We demand that these criminals be brought to justice. Yet, as a Christian, I have to stop and assess these tough situations. While some acts are sinful, responding to them with wrath is sinful as well. These emotions can get in front of us and put a roadblock in our relationship with God. As the Bible tells us in James 1:20, "human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires."

Getting angry at the individuals who took part in these violent acts will not change what they did. It doesn't reunite families, and it doesn't bring a feeling of real justice to our hearts. In fact, all being angry does is give the enemy the upper hand in the situation. Christianity tells us that being angry merely gives Satan the upper hand; he wants to tear down as many people as he can and he knows that hate is a great fuel for the fire. The people who committed these crimes are clearly not leading righteous lives. When we get angry, neither are we.

So what are we supposed to do with this anger? I know it's easier said than done. I fight this battle, too. Yet my faith teaches one lesson every time something like this happens: we have to turn it over to God. We must give it all over to Him, absolutely everything. We must pray for His will to be done, for Him to bring comfort and healing, for His divine intervention and for His unfailing love to prevail, not only in this situation, but in our hearts. Only with His intervention can we sever the hate from our hearts.

Those who commit such acts are clearly not God-fearing. Their souls are clearly not saved; they do not follow the teachings of Christ and have no sense of right and wrong. They have been misled in the same way the Romans were when they



Illustration by Yosuke Michishita

crucified Jesus. We should pray, as Jesus did, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." They are clearly not aware of how wrong and devastating their actions are.

While Jesus is perfect, and we are not, we must find it in our hearts to forgive those who commit these crimes. Hanging onto malice only poisons our own souls, and

leaves the door wide open for the enemy to slither through. Our morale is weakened when tragedies strike. We see a broken world. We see a world without morals or any sense of humanity. But Jesus is not of this world. As a matter of fact, he overcame it by his crucifixion and his perfect sacrifice: as he says in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may

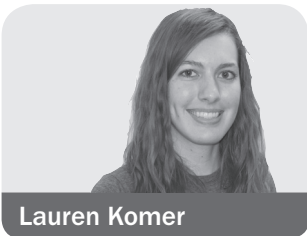
have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

When we're facing a horrible situation, it seems like our only option is to lash out. Yet my faith has taught me that the only solution is to get on my knees and pray. We have to pray for the families affected, for the people who are suffering, for comfort and healing.

We also have to pray for forgiveness, not only for the forgiveness of assailant, but also for forgiveness to take place within our own hearts, so that we may be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Autumn Mumford is a junior in pre-journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

October should expand to “National All Cancer Awareness Month”



My first experience with cancer was with my grandma. She was diagnosed with breast cancer when I was in second grade. I knew the situation was serious, but I didn't fully grasp its severity until I was much

older. For me, all it meant was Grandma got tired frequently and didn't have any hair. She completed her chemotherapy in 2003, and has been cancer-free for 10 years now and I couldn't be more thankful.

Ever since my grandma has battled the disease, I'm hyperaware when October rolls around. Everything in the U.S. grows a little pinker. Stores start carrying merchandise spouting pink ribbons. Breast cancer awareness advertisements crop up in the newspaper, Internet and television. Even the NFL

players, coaches and referees start wearing pink game apparel to promote breast cancer awareness, according to nfl.com.

Breast cancer is a serious disease. According to the 2013 Cancer Facts and Figures from the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women, excluding cancers of the skin.

But breast cancer isn't the only cancer.

In 2013, according the same ACS figures, about 580,350

Americans are expected to die of cancer – which amounts to 1,590 people per day. These statistics make cancer the second most common cause of death in the U.S., exceeded only by heart disease.

My best friend's dad passed away from lymphoma, a blood cancer, while she was in high school. I can't even fathom the pain that she went through during that time.

My grandpa survived pancreatic cancer and my boss from my part-time job in high school was diagnosed with

colon cancer, and recently completed treatment. Breast cancer may be common, but there are still many other cancers that have affected my life and the lives of my friends and family.

Prostate cancer and lymphoma awareness month is September, and colorectal cancer awareness month is March. I feel terrible, but I had to search choosehope.com to find all of those out. I could tell you off the top of my head that October is breast cancer awareness month, yet I had no

idea which months represented the other cancers that have had such a significant effect on my friends and family.

That's why I think we need to change October from National Breast Cancer Awareness Month to simply Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is a very common cancer, it's true, especially among women. But for whatever reason, it is highlighted during the year while the other cancer sufferers go largely ignored.

For example, wouldn't it make more sense for the NFL to raise awareness about prostate cancer instead of breast cancer, considering football players are male and their viewing audience is predominantly male as well? According to change.org, one in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Only one in a 1,000 men will develop breast cancer, according to the ACS. If there are 53 men on an NFL team, that means that around nine men on the team will be affected by prostate cancer, and many are likely to die from it. So why wouldn't they raise awareness about a cancer that will surely affect a more significant number of football players than breast cancer? If October were changed to Cancer Awareness Month, then this would no longer be a problem. The NFL could wear one color to denote all types of cancer, and not be criticized for only raising awareness about one specific kind.

Cancer is all based on the same biological problems, so it doesn't make sense that one cancer should have more funding than any other type of cancer. It's important to find treatments that work for all diseases.

If October was changed to raise awareness about all cancers, my friends and family could talk about the different cancers that have affected their lives and not feel like they have to wait until their designated month to do so. Ultimately, everyone with cancer just wants to make sure that others in the future will not have to suffer as they did. Why not allow them to all band together in one unifying month as we try and find a cure for this terrible disease?

Lauren Komer is a sophomore in microbiology. Please send comments to opinion@k-state-collegian.com.

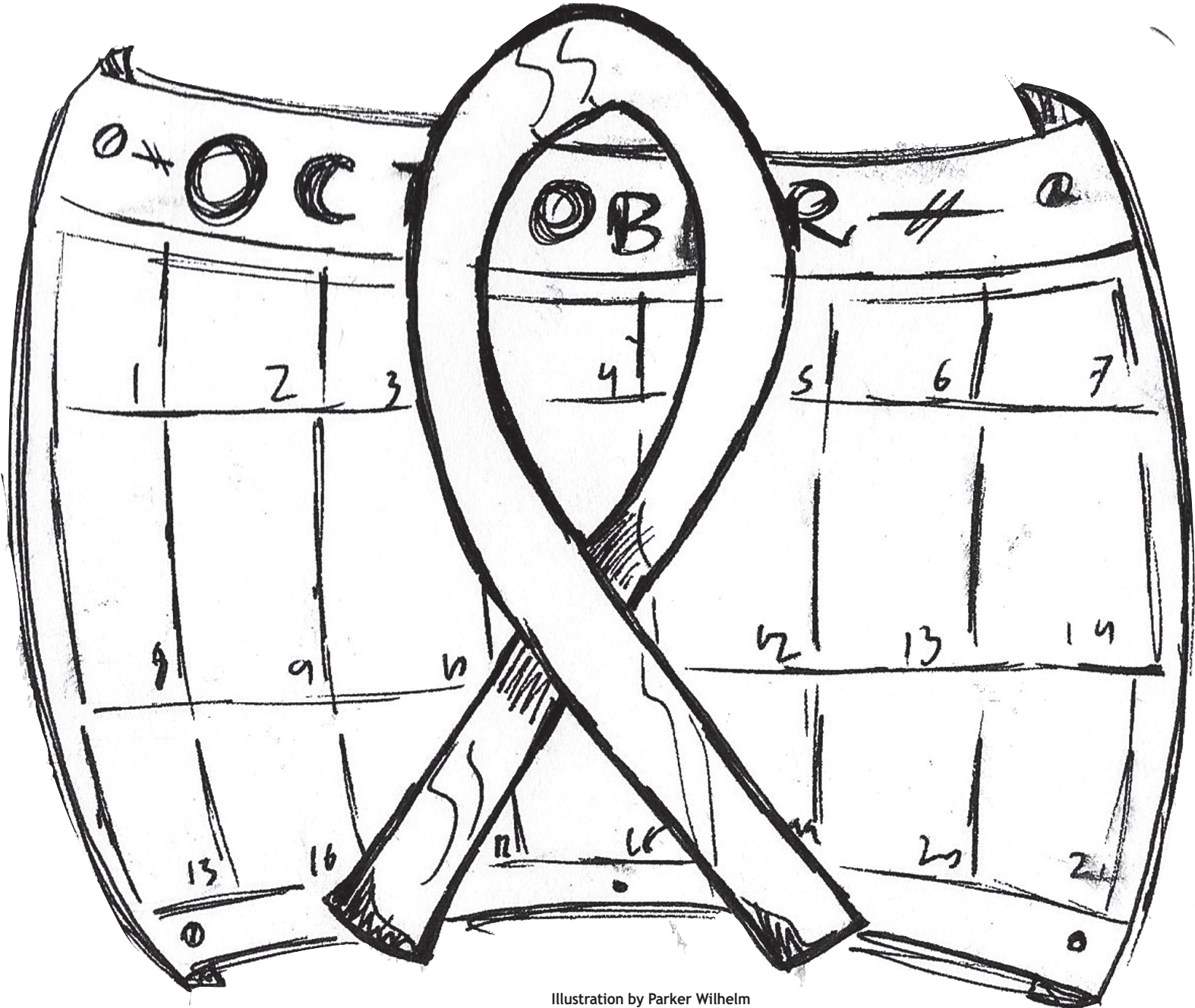


Illustration by Parker Wilhelm

K-State volleyball looks to bounce back at OU

David Embers
staff writer

Things are not going great right now for the K-State volleyball team. After a promising preseason that saw the Wildcats tie the school record for wins, a tough gauntlet of conference games has overwhelmed the senior laden squad.

While the overall record of 13-4 looks great, deeper digging will reveal losses in three of the last four, with all four recent setbacks coming against conference foes. The 1-3 Big 12 record has the Wildcats sixth in the conference, with no real shot of winning a Big 12 title. However, K-State can certainly get back on track and battle for an NCAA tournament birth and salvage the season.

For all of this to happen, the Wildcats must go on the road to Norman, Okla. and play a tough Sooners team that is 2-0 at home during conference play. K-State and Oklahoma will begin their match at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. Here is what to expect from the Sooners.

Oklahoma enters their match with K-State with a 14-4 record, 2-2 in the Big 12. Offensively, the Sooners have recorded 877 kills on the season, good for over 13 kills per set. They swing with a team kill percentage of .251.

Individually, Oklahoma senior Sallie McLaurin and sophomore Kierra Holst are tops in the kill department. Combined, they average over five kills per set, and both swing over .240. Sophomore setter Julia Doyle leads the team in assists with 562, and has started every match for the Sooners. Defensively, Oklahoma

has seven players with 18 or more blocks, and average 2.57 blocks per set as a team. By comparison, the Sooners opponents average only 1.83 blocks per set. The team also averages over 16.5 digs per set.

The Sooners serve with a team average of .935, and receive serves with a percentage of .937. Both of those numbers are impressive, and have proved to be a strong suit for Oklahoma through their first 18 games. Oklahoma doesn't excel at one particularly facet of the game, but is above average at nearly everything and have no major weaknesses. The Sooners are a top five team in almost every important statistical category in the Big 12, and have shown to be a defensive juggernaut so far this season.

Santiago Restrepo is the head coach for the Sooners. Restrepo enters his tenth season with Oklahoma, and has led his team to the NCAA tournament in four consecutive seasons. The Sooners have had three consecutive 20-win seasons, and since Restrepo became the lead man in 2004, Oklahoma has an overall record of 165-117.

Last season, the Sooners went 2-0 against K-State, sweeping the Wildcats in Norman and going 3-1 when the two teams faced off in Manhattan.

This matchup is not a great one for the Wildcats. All season long, K-State has been unable to put away points and overpower teams with their hitting. Combine that with Oklahoma's defensive abilities, and it could be a long night for the Wildcats. The Sooners do a great job of extending rallies and forcing teams to

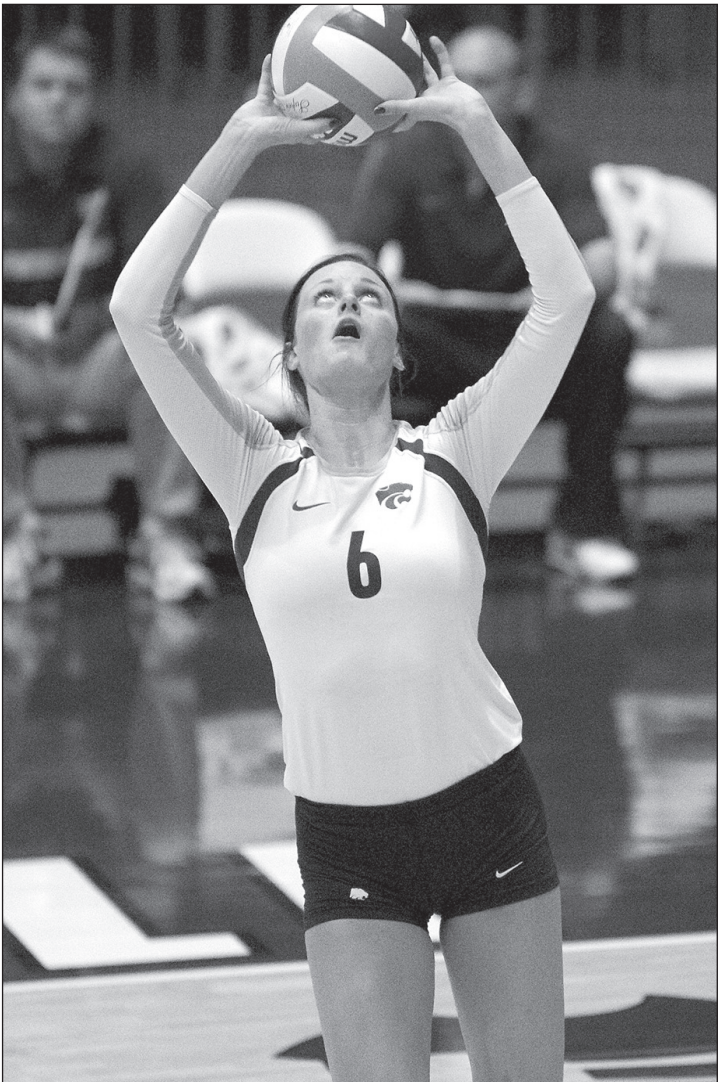
take three or four swings before the ball touches the floor, and by then, usually an error has occurred. One positive takeaway is that K-State has been impressive all season in their commitment to being a team that doesn't shoot themselves in the foot.

Rarely do you see the Wildcats lose a match because of unforced errors. With the two styles of play butting heads, it will be interesting to see which approach comes out on top. If the Wildcats can pull off the upset, it could be exactly the spark that head coach Suzie Fritz needs to get her team going and rattle off some big wins. Couple that with K-State's upcoming schedule that has limited travel and several home games, and you have the possibility for a big turn around.

It is a common mantra to "take it one game at a time," and sometimes that is just a cliché, but with where the Wildcats are right now, no one can be looking ahead. K-State will have to bring their "A" game, and force the Sooners into some early mistakes if they want to avoid dropping to 1-4 in the conference. Hopefully, the Wildcats' six seniors can draw on their experience to help guide K-State and gain some momentum heading into the middle third of their conference season.

Jed Barker | Collegian

K-State redshirt freshman **Katie Brand** sets the ball against TCU at Ahearn Field House in Manhattan, Kansas on Saturday. K-State came from behind to win the fourth set and setup a fifth set, which it dominated to win the match.



Chiefs fans set to attempt world record



Sean Frye

The fans of Arrowhead Stadium, the home of the Kansas City Chiefs, will try to break the Guinness World Record for crowd noise in a stadium on Sunday after-

noon when the Chiefs take on their archrival, the Oakland Raiders.

The current record stands at 136.6 decibels, while the Arrowhead Stadium record is 116 decibels. The Chiefs announced the attempt to its crowd at Arrowhead during their last home game against the New York Giants on Sunday, Sept. 29 in the form of a video.

In the video, there were highlights that showed the Arrowhead crowd at its loudest, which include the

late Derrick Thomas sacking legendary Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway and current Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning covering his ears to hear a play call while he was with the Indianapolis Colts.

The video then said that the title of "Loudest Stadium in the NFL" was taken away from the Chiefs earlier in the month, when the Seattle Seahawks fans set the record earlier this season.

Arrowhead Stadium | Courtesy Photo

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Baseball team undergoing fall camp

Spencer Low
staff writer

Last season marked the K-State baseball program's first conference title in 80 years, and they fell just one win short of the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. That unparalleled success is not a destination though, it is just another step forward for a program that is becoming a force in college baseball. And after a summer apart, the team is back together at fall camp and are preparing to defend their Big 12 title.

"It's exciting," said senior third baseman RJ Santigate, regarding the team joining back up again after the summer apart. "You all go your separate ways during summer ball, have your time away, then when you get back together, it's a really good time."

But before the team can think about defending their title or even getting on the field in the spring, there is plenty of work to do. Nonetheless, the players are happy to be back in Man-

hattan, practicing at Tointon Family Stadium in the fall air.

"It's fresh, new faces, new guys and new expectations," said senior second baseman Ross Kivett. "It's fun to be out here in really good weather and hanging out with my best friends. It's kind of the same feel as last year, not trying to put too much pressure on ourselves and just enjoy the process and get better every day."

After being drafted in the 10th round and turning down a shot at the pros to return for his senior season, Kivett said he is happy to be back in the swing of things in Manhattan. The Big 12 Player of the Year will be joined by several key players from last year's run, including the Big 12 Freshman of the Year Jake Matthys, who was also named a Freshman All-American by Louisville Slugger for his stellar season as the Wildcats' closing pitcher.

K-State also returns senior catcher Blair DeBord, junior first baseman Shane Conlon,

and junior shortstop Austin Fisher, all of whom were named First Team All-Big 12 – as well as Freshman All-Big 12 pitcher Blake McFadden.

As much talent as they have returning, there are some notable faces missing, including last year's three starting outfielders. Jared King was taken in the fifth round over the summer by the New York Mets in the draft, while Tanner Witt and Jon Davis both graduated, leaving some holes in the lineup. Starting pitcher Joe Flattery graduated too.

However, in the world of collegiate sports, finding new faces to fill empty spots is nothing new, and just another part of the game. There are several players who are ready to step in after playing part time last year, and fall camp is all about finding new contributors.

"We're just enjoying the process," Kivett said of team's path to the upcoming season. "We know that every

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LGBT and Allies out in the open, share their “coming out of the closet” stories

Johnnie Harvey
staff writer

Coming out of the closet is a lot like walking unarmed onto a battleground. You feel exposed, vulnerable and have no idea if you're going to survive. The brave men, women and other sexual affiliations wear their departure from the dark depths of fabric and hangers as a badge of courage. Some use their story as a source of inspiration for others to find their strength to do the same.

Last night, there was a lot of strength in the air at the Campus Creek Amphitheater while LGBT and Allies hosted their annual event for National Coming Out Day. About 80 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight allied people assembled to tell their story, a tremendous improvement from last year's 30 or so attendees.

As each individual recalled their first steps out from their closet, a theme evolved, "everyone has a different story."

The most comical story of the night, based on audience reaction, was from Alaina Littlejohn, sophomore in animal science and industry. She said she knew she liked girls from a very young age.

"I was in elementary school and I was like, 'There were a lot of fine looking babes out here,'" Littlejohn said. "They were looking good."

Having grown up in Chicago with parents who attended the annual gay pride parades and festivals, Littlejohn was exposed to a safe environment early on. She explained trying to get her mom to take her to pride when she was 12 years old, only to be shot down because of her age. The next year, when she asked her mom again and got the same response, Littlejohn knew it was time to pull out the big guns.

With the support of her sister, Littlejohn told her mom she was bisexual.

"Wait, you've been having sex," Littlejohn said her mom asked without missing a beat.

"No mom, I'm only 13," Littlejohn said as a response. "Give me

a year."

Though not everyone's story is filled with tragedy, the ones that do still left some speechless. Caren Chellgren, president of the Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medicine Association and third-year in veterinary medicine, has one of those stories.

"I made the decision to come out on Facebook," Chellgren said. "All but two friends left me."

Chellgren said she did not realize that she was attracted to women until she was 18 years old. Fearful of how her family would react, she continued to date men. It wasn't until just last year did she get her first girlfriend.

"I was exposed to this wonderful world, and found out that

I am really a lesbian. Sorry guys," Chellgren said, igniting a plethora of chuckles from the crowd.

The laughter did not last long. Since coming out to her parents, Chellgren said her mother does not want to know anything about her LGBT life. Overcoming this, she said she feels welcomed and secure in her new environment in the LGBT community since coming out.

Chris Chavez, sophomore in animal science and industry and president of LGBT and Allies, said he knew he was gay since second grade. However, he dated girls until his sophomore year of high school when he came out to all of his friends, including his girlfriend.

"Oh hey, I'm gay," Chavez said to his now ex-girlfriend.

"Oh, that's awkward," he said she replied.

Chavez's first relationship happened when both he and his boyfriend were in the closet. After an intercepted text between the two by his mom, Chavez had to spill the beans. Luckily, his mother understood. It was actually his mom that got him to join LGBT and Allies.

For anyone who is struggling with coming out, gender identity or looking for an inclusive community, the LGBT Resource Center and LGBT affiliated student organizations on campus could be a place to find that support.

TRANSGENDER | LGBT community provided comfort in time of transition

Continued from page 1

allied community members. Then, he began coming out to a larger sphere of people including professors, classmates and his family.

During his sophomore year at K-State, either through email or in class, he began asking professors to refer to him as Adam. He said there were times in classes that professors or fellow students would refer to him as Adam, yet use feminine pronouns when talking about or to him.

O'Brien wasn't the only one with this experience.

"There were a couple of points where I wouldn't tell my teachers before showing up to class on the first day [that I was transitioning]," Will Harmon, junior in English, said. "I only did that for my third semester here, even though I had been transitioning for at least two previous semesters. By my fourth semester here, I was so tired of trying to explain it. The roster would say one name with corresponding pronouns, and I preferred a completely different name with opposite pronouns. So, I emailed all of my professors before the first day of classes."

Harmon said he emailed professors about students using his correct name, but with the wrong pronouns. He would email professors about the issue instead of calling those students out in class.

"I introduce myself as Will," Harmon said. "How many girls do you know named Will?"

Harmon and O'Brien both

began their transitions after graduating from high school and going straight to college. For Taylor Suppes, sophomore in agricultural business, that wasn't the case.

Suppes took time off to train to be a part of the U.S. Marine Corps. Unfortunately, he was injured before completing the training and was automatically denied the ability to sign. He then decided he was going to attend college, but didn't have the money for it.

"Took a year off and modeled," Suppes said. "I was favored [by photographers] and had images sold and published. Once I had enough money, though, I came to K-State and began my transition. When I got here, I was put on an all girls floor [in the dorms]. I wasn't fully out until the last few months of spring semester my freshman year. But, that whole year I was wearing boys clothes around campus and stuff."

Harmon and O'Brien have both legally changed their names within the state of Kansas, and are referred to as such by all of their professors. Suppes, however, has yet to legally change his name.

"It was actually really easy to change my name," O'Brien said. "I went to Student Legal Services. The woman I worked with was really cool with it, understanding and accepting. I had to pay the legal fee and she did the rest. She set a court date. We showed up. The judge signed the piece of paper and that was it. Only took

about two months from start to finish."

Harmon went through a similar process around the same as O'Brien, about 15 months ago.

Harmon said once he legally changed his name, he sent his information to the residence life coordinator for the Van Zile Complex, where he was living at the time, and she passed his information through avenues it needed to go in order for his name to be corrected.

In other states, transgender people can be denied name changes. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, in some states, transgender people can go through "common law name change." This refers to when one changes their name in everyday social interactions, but not legally. However, others may have to petition the name change. In some states, judges require a transgender petitioner to prove they have undergone medical procedures that show intention of living fully as the gender associated with the name.

Though Harmon's and O'Brien's name changes went smoothly, others are not as fortunate. Depending on the assigned judge, it is possible to be denied a name change for a transgender person in Kansas. If a name change is granted, as of 2010, Kansas will not change names or gender identities on birth certificates. Transgender people could also find it difficult to change their names by having to

go through unnecessary testing, petitions or qualifications such as having to undergo medical procedures before requesting a name change.

Harmon, O'Brien and Suppes are all female to male transgender students. This means they are transitioning from the gender of female, corresponding with their birth sex, to male. They present as male and live their lives as male. Kara Baker, lab technician in plant pathology, is a male to female transgender staff member at K-State.

Baker immediately got a job after graduating from K-State with a degree in microbiology in spring 2013. Once she graduated, she began transitioning, including living full-time as a woman. She also has legally changed her name within the state of Kansas.

Baker was lucky to both graduate and receive a job. Many transgender people are not so fortunate. According to a Sept. 15 article by Cristan Williams from the Transadvocate, transgender people tend to graduate from high school 23 percent less than the general population but receive 9 percent more college degrees than the general population. Transgender students will sometimes drop out of high school but later complete their GED. Furthermore, transgender people also earn 11 percent

more graduate degrees than the general population.

Often, educational level is directly related to the ability to find a job. This statement does not hold true for transgender people. According to the aforementioned Transadvocate article, even with more trans-inclusive, non-discrimination policies being passed from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transgender people still have a more difficult time finding and keeping a job than the general population.

According to the 253 respondents of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey from April 2011, 20 percent of transgender people have lost their job because of their gender transition. However, 30 percent said they were not hired due to their transgender status and 17 percent said they were denied a promotion due to being transgender. When an estimated 2 to 5 percent of the total U.S. population is transgender in some form, according to the Transgender Law Center, there are incredible disparities in education and employment among transgender people.

Baker, Suppes, Harmon and O'Brien all acknowledge that higher education is important. All four are successful and passionate about their respective

degree choices.

They realized their internal identities did not match who they wanted to be. They transitioned from their previous gender to their current identity. They scoured the Internet, some found the LGBT community, asked questions of what they were experiencing and realized the internal conflicts they faced with their physical body and their gender identity were not common among the majority of their peers. Through the LGBT community, they realized they are and were not alone in their journey and transition.

"Everyone often asks if I want to just blend in with society once I'm done transitioning," Suppes said. "I want to pass, yeah, but I want my story to be known. Other people go through similar transitions, questioning who they are, why they don't understand and you have no one to turn to and talk to about it. It's hard enough going through something like this that is all your own, but once you find that community that is out, it makes the transition so much easier."

Jakki Thompson is a junior in journalism and mass communications and American Ethnic Studies. Please send all comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com.

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